

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Deputy Director

*Wright*

DATE: 5 May 1947

FROM : General Counsel

SUBJECT: Intelligence Informational Material

25X1 1. I mentioned to Admiral Hillenkoetter on Friday that Mr. [ ] had been reviewing and collating all the documentary background available in this office on the development of Central Intelligence. These include studies, summaries and recommendations for various committees and offices. Many of them are of considerable immediate interest, and all are valuable permanent records. I suggested that the Director might be interested to see them, and they should be brought together in a file available to the Director's office.

25X1 2. The attached memo is, as outlined in [ ] note,  
25X1 revised from a study for the Lovett Committee, which was influential  
in phrasing the directive of 22 January 1946. I agree with [ ]  
that it might be useful in briefing proper outsiders on the need for,  
aims and theory of central intelligence. Perhaps you have use for it,  
25X1 and Mr. Pforzheimer might want copies to use in certain of his contacts.

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[ ]  
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON

2 May 1947

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, OIG

Subject: Attached Memorandum - Background of  
Central Intelligence

1. It would appear to be probable that members of Congress called upon to consider legislation relating to central intelligence are unlikely to have any but the foggiest of notions concerning its philosophy or raison d'etre. It seemed to me possible that you might consider favorably the possibility of having presented to them officially some document which would provide them with a background against which specific verbal testimony would take on greater meaning. Such a document might also obviate the excessively elementary type of question which is so apt to delay the progress of Congressional hearings.

2. In going over the files of possibly useful documents I came across a memorandum prepared by the Strategic Services Unit for the War Department committee of inquiry headed by Assistant Secretary Lovett. One part of this memorandum, with which I am particularly familiar because I wrote it at the direction of General Magruder, seemed particularly well adapted for the desired use. I have revised it somewhat, eliminating certain too technical parts and expanding others which might be ambiguous. The result is attached for your consideration.

3. It is my belief that this document can be given a classification of "Confidential" since its contents are quite general. The original paper was classified "Secret" but it contained much more specific information than does the attachment, and it was written at a time when central intelligence was as yet a future development in fact.

**SECRET**

15 May 1947

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CIG****Subject: Background Papers on Development of CIG**

1. It is not commonly recognized that the conception of a centralized intelligence service for the United States Government has a relatively long history. The establishment of the National Intelligence Authority in January 1946 was the culmination of discussions and studies which had been going on for nearly two years.
2. It has seemed to me that a certain amount of value might be derived from collecting in one place a selection of the most pertinent background papers. They will at least demonstrate that the idea of centralized intelligence is not novel, that the existing system is the outgrowth of searching studies on the part of exceedingly diverse participants possessing widely divergent motivations, and that therefore further new investigations might be expected to be entirely superfluous.
3. The papers in this collection are selected from more voluminous files which, although they have some bearing on the subject, provide either unnecessary duplications or make no real contribution to the development of the idea. Actually many of them are interesting for the sidelights they throw on the difficulties which had to be overcome in moving the plans along at all, but they would be apt to detract attention from the central idea had they been included.
4. There are two papers which have been omitted because they were not available in the files at my disposal. These two papers are JIC 239/5 and the amended JCS 1181/5 dated 19 September 1945. Presumably these can be obtained from the JCS. They should be included here because they present in almost final form the outline of the National Intelligence Authority and the CIG.
5. Mr. Houston has looked over this collection, and suggests that in the event of detailed legislative discussion of CIA the answers to many questions may be found here.

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